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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

58-L

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Action

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Control: 20435
Rec'd: October 31, 1959
1:48 p.m.

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GG/N

FROM: Tehran

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 910, October 31, 4 p.m.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 910; REPEATED INFORMATION BAGHDAD 57, LONDON 56, DHAHRAN 4, KHORRAMSHAHR 126, BASRA 16.

DHAHRAN FOR DLG

FROM WILKINS

DEPTEL 1295 to Tehran.

We understand Iranian regulations re flying of flag continue in force but that regulations will not be rigidly carried out as set forth in greater detail in EMBTEL 902 to Department. We have discussed this question with Iranian officials on several occasions and do not believe they will go beyond Shah's statement to Ambassador Wailes that orders had been issued not to push question of either flag or pilotage for time being (EMBTEL 839 to Department). Khorramshahr's 31 to Department seems to bear this out in that blacklisting has been selective so far.

It is also our understanding of treaty provisions and customary procedure that Iranian flag vessels are not required fly Iraqi flag or use Iraqi pilots. At same time most Iranian flag vessels are of less than 500 tons and are considered as small craft. Pan American LSMS fall in this latter category. It is probable, however, that large ocean-going vessels flying Iranian flag would be expected to take Iraqi pilots aboard. We have no additional information in Tehran other than EMBTEL 890 to Department re cases of ships flying both Iranian and Iraqi flags.

We are continuing to urge caution re SHATT on Iranian officials whenever we can, most recently during conversation with Sanandaji

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reported EMBTEL 898 to Department. US Army Attache checked Iranian military authorities October 30 re any possible Iranian military movements in southern Iran and was informed none had taken place nor were any contemplated at this time (US Army message C-152-59 of October 30 in response to DA 967489).

WAILES

BB:JRC 2

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